

**PARK BOARD MINUTES**  
**June 11, 2008**  
**Foster Community Center**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Rick Kibbey, Brian Smith, Cynthia Ward, Ron Lott, Pat Murray

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Paul Carrier, Dusty Fancher, Tina Houghton

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Murdock Jemerson, Director Lansing Parks; Loretta Stanaway, Cemetery Friends; Don Ballard, Manager of Golf Operations; Bob Trezise, EDC; Eric Hart, LEPFA; Brian Anderson; Kathy Dunbar; Paul Dykema, Forestry/Ground Manager; Robin Sackevich, Greater Lansing Dog Park

**CALLED TO ORDER:** 7:00 p.m.

**ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:**

Kibbey moved the City Market presentation to the beginning of the agenda and asked for a storm damage update.

**STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS:**

Loretta Stanaway, Friends of Cemeteries, stated they gave away 200 geraniums on May 17; Kositchek's and Smith Floral were sponsors for the event. They also planted flower beds at the entrances of the cemeteries and will maintain them. They have taped their cable show and it will air Thursday on City TV.

The Friends have concerns about Mt. Hope Cemetery being closed and that one of the trees that came down had been red dotted; which raises the question of how many trees that fell could have been prevented if maintenance of the trees had been done.

Robin Sackevich, VP-Greater Lansing Dog Park stated the park is really busy and they would like to open another dog park and would like to see Waverly Golf Course turned into a park since the amenities are already there.

**BOARD MINUTES**

**May 14, 2008**

Murray moved to accept the minutes as written, Lott seconded.

**Motion carried to accept the May minutes as submitted. 5 yeas; 0 nays**

**City Market Presentation**

Bob Trezise, President of EDC, provided a sketch of the City Market and stated eight months ago they unveiled a new city market located at the River Trail. The new market would not be open in the winter and the current market would be torn down. During this time, it would be four to five months before vendors could do business.

They have met with vendors, architects, neighborhood associations and other groups and have attended at least thirty different meetings. Information and input from these meetings was helpful and resulted in a new proposal for a year round facility with a kitchen incubator and outdoor booths.

It is still on the riverfront and would be a new centerpiece. The current market would not be closed until the new market is open.

This project would also be open to the \$3.2 million dollar Clean Michigan Initiative grant from the DEQ. They have met with the DEQ and the architects understand the basis for building in a flood plain.

A development agreement has been reached between the City and the developer, Gillespie. LEPFA will use each payment increment to proceed forward. The project will also be built under a project labor agreement.

Ward asked if it would be the current size or could there be more vendors.

Hart said it would be 11,000 square feet. They have placed design layouts to give vendors an idea of what they can do with their space. They have added thirteen new vendors recently and the current vendors will be guaranteed a place in the new market.

The City will continue to subsidize the rent, but they would like to have the vendors become responsible for their own electrical. The current utilities are over \$50,000 annually.

Kibbey asked if there has been discussion to create funds for upkeep.

Hart stated there has been discussion with the developer and they are looking at making this “green” and it will be a rustic design to minimize maintenance.

Murray asked how many existing parking spaces there are and how many are proposed. Hart stated there currently are 150-180 and there are 60 proposed.

Kibbey suggested a power point presentation be brought to the Board for information.

Jemerson stated at a City Hall on the Road meeting there was a negative resident who was concerned about cars parking on the River Trail.

Anderson stated there is enough of a barrier to keep cars off, except for farmers unloading and selling out of their trucks.

Kibbey stated this seems to be an evolving process.

Ward asked if the surrounding area would be inaccessible during construction. Trezise stated he was not sure and he would look at the situation.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Waverly and Red Cedar Golf Courses**

Tabled until July when a representative from the Mayor’s office could attend the meeting.

### **Memorial Policy**

Kibbey stated the Memorial Review Board is being dissolved, which will bring requests back to the Park Board.

Lott would like to table this until July to give Board Members an opportunity to look over the form.

### **Jones Lake**

Jemerson stated there is a piece of land at Jones Lake to be donated to the Parks Department. The land can not be built on and is a wetland area.

Lott asked if this area would require additional maintenance; Jemerson stated it would not.

Kibbey asked if it would be dedicated park land and if there could be any contamination.

Jemerson replied it would be dedicated and that a Phase One could be done.

Kibbey asked for a phase one report and a draft resolution at the next meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Hunters' Ridge Land Acquisition**

Kathy Dunbar provided a draft letter providing an outline she had composed to the attorneys representing Countrywide Mortgage.

Mr. Hill who has the mortgage on the property is desperate to rid him self of the land. Dunbar stated she has a strong feeling they would receive the acquisition grant, which is due August 1.

There were 2 parties interested, but have backed away due to lack of a Council resolution. Dunbar has a group of "good Samaritans" as she will refer to them, who are willing to take an interest loan on the property until the grant application date.

Kibbey stated there are several issues on this and the grant application would provide answers to the questions if the Board were able to see a draft of the grant application.

Kibbey asked when a draft resolution could be provided for review and the Board could have a discussion about this project.

Dunbar would like to have it at the Public Service meeting next Monday.

Lott stated there are so many questions about this.

Dunbar asked if she could e-mail the resolution and get group e-mail replies by Board members.

Kibbey asked if this process would be ok with the Board.

Lott and Ward said they could try this process. Ward reiterated there are so many questions that need answers.

Kibbey stated he would like to see group e-mail replies also.

Dunbar stated the grant application deadline is August 1 and the sooner this could go to Council, the investors would move forward.

Kibbey stated Board members will see the resolution, and e-mail their conversations to each other. If Board wants to take official stand on this, it would be at the July meeting.

### **Westside Cell Tower Expansion**

Tabled until July and the Board requested Carol Munroe attend the meeting to provide additional information.

## **UPDATES**

### **Storm Damage**

Dykema stated the first storm was Friday evening and was done around 1:00 a.m.; Saturday more damage occurred, which went into Sunday and the Sunday storms brought through a tornado. As a result of the storms, staff acted and responded quickly.

On Monday, Mayor Bernero declared a state of emergency. Police, Fire and Parks were able to work to clear roads for emergency vehicles and roads were passable within 30 hours. Some debris was left until daylight due to downed powerlines.

The City has worked out an agreement with Granger to allow residents to take debris to the Wood Street location. Residents will need to show identification. Individuals who are out of their homes are being taken care of.

There are over 200 workers available from the UAW, Transportation, Public Service and other departments working on clean up. Park crews are working 16 hour days, 6 days a week.

Crews will take private brush that is at the curb and are working through the city. Some areas are so busy with repair traffic that the area will be gone through later.

Mount Hope Cemetery has 30 to 35 trees down, with as many cracked. As funerals are scheduled, we will send in inspectors to assure safety. Fenner trails will be gone through thoroughly, but the trails are closed at this time. River trail through Elm Park has had trees ripped from the ground and is closed. Hunter Park is being cleared to continue construction on the pool. Moores pool did open on schedule.

Murray stated there is a celebration at Moores Park planned for June 25; Dykema doubted the park would be ready but would talk with administration.

Ballard stated they were able to relocate weddings from Frances Park to Cooley Gardens.

### **Remaining Updates**

**Fenner** - Fenner Board is trying to find a way to replace the Naturalist.

**Kaynorth** - Kaynorth is dedicated area and can not be given to the neighbors.

**Moores Park** - Murray reported the labyrinth is in, but is not sure if the process is complete.

**Hunter Pool** – Construction is underway, storm damage could delay finish date.

**Soldan Dog Park** – Fence is down, mediation is done and resolution is made.

**River Trail South** – Equipment is at Sycamore to begin construction; however flooding is an issue right now.

### **Correspondence**

Ward distributed Council President Jeffries April report regarding Frances Park.

### **Information**

Perpetual Care Fund – Balance is \$1,603,593, (\$1,590,000 of which is invested in CD's).

Stanaway stated if there is \$1.6 million in the fund, then the wreaths should be put out and they haven't been for 3 years.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted \_\_\_\_\_  
Kellie Brown, Interim Park Board Secretary

Approved July 9, 2008